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Morse - Oration - 1829

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April 4, 1917

AN

# ORATION,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

## CITIZENS OF NANTUCKET,

JULY 4, 1829.

BEING THE

## FIFTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

## Declaration of the Independence

OF

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

---

BY WILLIAM MORSE,

PASTOR OF THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, NANTUCKET.

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BOSTON:  
PRESS OF PUTNAM & HUNT.

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1829.

LS 4512.39.28

NANTUCKET, July 11, 1829.

REV. WILLIAM MORSE:

Dear Sir—At a meeting of the Committee of Arrangements for the celebration of the Fourth of July, it was voted that Messrs. *Aaron Mitchell*, *John Thornton*, and *Robert F. Parker*, present to you the thanks of that committee, in behalf of their fellow-townsmen, for the Oration delivered by you on the recent Anniversary of our National Independence, and to request a copy of the same for the press.

Attest,      ROBERT F. PARKER, *Secretary.*

In accordance with the above vote, we individually tender you our sincere thanks, and desire you will comply with the request therein contained.

Yours, &c.

AARON MITCHELL,  
JOHN THORNTON,  
ROBERT F. PARKER, } Committee.

GENTLEMEN:

I have received your note of the 11th inst. requesting a copy of my Oration, delivered on the day of our Nation's late Anniversary, for the press.

Relying on your candour in making this request, as proof, that in your opinion, the Discourse may possibly tend in some degree to the better understanding of our civil and religious rights in this country, I herewith furnish you the manuscript, which is at your disposal.

With sentiments of esteem, I am

Yours, very respectfully,

WILLIAM MORSE.

Messrs: AARON MITCHELL,  
JOHN THORNTON,  
ROBERT F. PARKER, } Committee.

Nantucket, July 14, 1829.



Wendell Lewis tract-  
ed. by E. L. Gray

## ORATION.

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**FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS,—**

The nation's jubilee is the day we have convened to celebrate ; a day which leads us to the contemplation of principles, and awakens recollections, dear, very dear to the interests of millions—it is an anniversary which, in a sense, gave birth to Liberty ; a name, the slightest mention of which, is music to the ear of every true American.

If any individual in this assembly has ever felt a spirit of party agitating his bosom, I hope and trust that *that* spirit fled from him, previously to stepping his foot upon the threshold of this house ; and that every one present feels to rejoice in the conviction of having met on this joyous occasion, his brothers and friends,—America's free-born sons.

I trust that the principles furnishing motives for our present assembling, are such principles as lay near the heart of every friend of freedom, every defender of equal rights, and every philanthropist, without regard to rank, sect or nation ; and what is still more, they are such, I believe, as righteous Heaven approves.

In the blessings of civil and religious liberty by which our country is so highly distinguished, every friend of the human species can feel to participate ;—can feel to mingle

gratitude to God for the various benefits which have already resulted to the citizens of these United States, as the effects of liberty, and unite with the benevolent and good of every clime, in offering up to Heaven the most sincere and devout orisons for the extension and continuance of these blessings to the latest periods of time.

The shortness of the time allotted to prepare for the festivities of this day, and other circumstances connected with our present meeting, forbid my attempting a logical discussion concerning the excellence of our free institutions, or treating largely of the wise adaptation, to the nature and condition of human beings, of those principles contained in that sacred charter of our rights, the "Declaration of Independence," just read in your hearing.

Arguments intended to confirm the minds of this enlightened auditory in the belief that liberty is more promotive of the happiness of its subjects than tyranny, would be as needless, as would be the attempt to convince a good and upright man, that virtue possesses moral beauty, rather than vice; or, the attempt to produce conviction in the philosopher's mind, that knowledge should be more highly prized than ignorance.

I shall pass over the long catalogue of crimes and woes which marks the history of mankind—the rise and fall of states and empires, the venality, corruption and cruelty of the kings of the Old World, their elevation by intrigue, their abuse of usurped authority and their sudden overthrow;—the ignorance, vassalage and misery of their subjects, and hasten down to the eventful period, when our forefathers first cast a wishful look to this country, then a dense "howling wilderness," a land where the Tiger and the Lion fiercely contended with the red men of the woods, the worshippers of the "Great Spirit," for supreme and undisturbed dominion.

The first question which the nature of the subject seems to suggest, is, What inducement was furnished that veteran little band, sufficient to effect their separation from home and friends, and stimulate them to bid an everlasting farewell to the land of their fathers, and to turn their backs forever upon "England's fast anchored isle?"

The proper answer to this question is,—*wretchedness at home*; this, and this only, could have incited those fearless, determined spirits, to embark in so bold and hazardous an

undertaking as that of trusting fortune, friends, life, to the mercy of the storm, to the angry surges of the wide Atlantic. "They plunged into the wave, with the great charter of freedom in their teeth, because the faggot and the torch were behind them."

To encourage them in their noble enterprise, was the just dread they felt of continuing to wear the galling yoke of civil and ecclesiastical despotism, and being fearful likewise that their children might be mercilessly compelled to wear every chain, forged for them, by the arbitrary family of Stuarts ; circumstances like these combined, eventually severed the tie which bound them to their native country.

United with the above considerations was the fact, that a prospect was afforded them in this New World for the establishment of liberty for themselves and their posterity.

The prospect of gaining an asylum even among the rude and savage tribes of the West, and of taking up their abode on the bank of some majestic river, or, at the foot of some lofty mountain, in a land where tyranny systematized, reduced to a science, had never existed, nerved their arms and encouraged their hearts ; while Hope, as a torch borne in the hand of some kind angel, lighted them across the trackless waters to the now consecrated rock of Plymouth.

At this perilous hour, when before them their only view was an immense wilderness, and behind, was nothing save the cloud-skirted deep—suffering beneath the pelting, pitiless storms of December, when surrounded with these and many other disheartening, appalling circumstances, what but a dread of slavery *at home*, united with a belief that freedom is man's inalienable right, that human suffering in the cause of human happiness will meet the smile of approving Heaven, could have fortified their minds against the ruinous approach of depression and despair ?

But the dangers of their new residence, and the labors attendant on the cultivation of a yet uncultivated soil, were not all the hardships to which their thirst for freedom and their temerity had exposed them. It was not alone the fear of an unforgiving and savage foe, against whose inhuman encroachments they felt the necessity of guarding, which agitated their bosoms and planted thorns in their path. No ! the half which constituted their unhappiness

has not been told you ; the cause of much of their infelicity originated, not in the cruelty of the savage, but in the *avarice*, connected with the love of power, (a love which is by no means exotic from human nature,) of an old, civilized, yet warlike nation.

Notwithstanding the repeated petitions and remonstrances of these then infant colonists, which were addressed to a country claiming to be their mother, (though acting the part of a cruel step-mother,) yet Britain, *haughty, aspiring Britain*, continued making her exorbitant exactions upon the lean revenue of the colonies, and multiplying her injuries, until this weak and afflicted people saw no means for redress, except that of commencing open hostilities with their oppressors.

Surely, it was the fervent glow of liberty filling their bosoms, which gave courage to this weak, oppressed and insulted people, to leave the plough, and put on the armor of battle to contend with a nation deemed invincible in war, a nation schooled in all the arts of human butchery, the acknowledged "regent of isles and the mistress of oceans." The inhabitants of this country by adopting this measure knew not whether they should meet death on the scaffold or in the field of battle. But rather than be subjected to groan under the manacles of slavery which they saw preparing for them beyond the ocean, they trusted their lives to the righteousness of their cause and the mercy of Heaven.

Coming down to the period of the American Revolution, it will be unnecessary for me to enter into detail concerning its events ; they are well known, and are familiar to many present; I therefore will not detain you at this time, to recount to you the deeds of valor, the deeds of high and noble daring, which marked the struggle of Americans for liberty. Roused by a sudden impulse, the effects of which circulated with the rapidity of electric fire, the Americans said with a mighty voice—(a voice which one day will, we trust, be as a terrible thunderbolt to the ears of tyrants) "we are not born to be enslaved by the corrupt governments of the trans-atlantic world." Though deeply regretting the necessity of war, and appealing to "the Supreme Judge of the Universe for the rectitude of their intentions," they "pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor," in defence of their dearest rights.

That they were sincere in their professions—that they fought like men fighting for liberty, and not like the vassals of some cruel despot, let that awful period attest when the infamous Pitcairn reproachfully exclaimed, “*Disperse, rebels,*” and Lexington’s verdant fields were made red with the patriot’s blood !

Though sad indeed must be the sons of freedom when reverting to those trying scenes through which their fathers, struggling for liberty were called to pass, yet memory delights to linger on such deeds of nobleness and patriotism as marked the steps of a WASHINGTON,—that deathless name ! for though dead, he yet speaketh and liveth in the hearts of millions, and will live in the hearts of countless generations to come.

From the volumes of smoke and fire ascending from Bunker’s Hill, crimsoned with the blood of a thousand of the enemy’s troops, I might follow with you this little band of determined patriots through their various calamities, during a protracted, bloody and awful contest ; and speak of their being defeated at Long Island, of their subsequently being driven from forts Washington and Lee, and likewise of their repeatedly “turning on their insulting foe, and mingling their *blood* with the melting *lava* of the cannon’s mouth,” foretelling them of Trenton, Germantown and Monmouth. I might also attempt a description of their sufferings during the winter of ’76, that darkest season of the Revolution ; yea, I might come down to a later period, and relate to you the story of Plattsburgh, Niagara, and of New Orleans, to prove, if I may so speak, the *vincibleness* of “British invincibility !”

But the events, the battles and victories of the last war, which thousands honestly believe passed away without tarnishing our nation’s glory, but not without adding to her dignity and her laurels, are yet fresh in your memories, and therefore need not be described at this time. When I look around me at the present moment, I trust I can select here and there one, whose snowy locks, whose furrowed cheek, and whose tottering frame admonish him, that he is already entering the door of that “*house appointed for all the living;*” who fifty years ago, had not recovered from the toils and sufferings endured in the Revolutionary contest—endured in the cause of rational liberty, a cause which

though its defence required numbers to pass through seas of blood, resulted in the country's victory and glory !

Venerated fathers ! the language of your youthful servant would fail to describe your emotions at a period, when your minds were poising between hope and despair, when you knew not whether you should leave freedom as a legacy to your children, whether by hereditary succession your children might thereafter be subjected (at least nominally,) to the rule of some "ideot king !" We cheerfully acknowledge the immense debt of gratitude which is your due—the brilliant exploits of those who aided in effecting the salvation of America from the encroachments of arbitrary power, and consequent misery, are recorded on the faithful page of history—they have likewise left an indelible impression on the hearts of their children.

At a period when Grecian and Roman republics, (if republics they really were,) had crumbled and scattered, and liberty herself seemed as if she were about to depart from the earth, the then thirteen United States declared themselves free and independent, asserting thereby the right of self-government. It is true, "that on the islands of the Adriatic, the mountains of Biscay, and the rocks of Uri, the spirit of liberty had indeed successfully sought a refuge ; but driven at last from all that could delight her on earth, she had already flapped her wings on the glaciers of Switzerland, and was taking her flight towards heaven : the Americans rose—they burst their fetters—they hurled them at their oppressors—they shouted they were **FREE**. The sound broke across the Atlantic—it shook the fog-wrapt Island of Britain and re-echoed along the Alps. The ascending spirit heard it ; she recognized in it the voice of her elect, and holding her course westward, she rejoicing saw her incense rise from a thousand altars. Her presence assured our triumph."

The event of the American Revolution, in other words, the achievement of American liberty, viewed in relation to the price which it cost, the blessings it is now conferring on twelve millions of enlightened freemen, and with respect to its future effects upon the political, intellectual and moral condition of the human species, is doubtless an event, if we except the birth of the son of God, which, for importance, stands unparalleled in the annals of the world.

In view then of the amount sacrificed, the number of lives lost, the tears shed and sufferings endured in the cause of rational liberty, it becomes us to whom has been committed this invaluable inheritance, to inquire, in what way shall we hand down the exalted privileges attendant on political and religious liberty to posterity unimpaired?

Twenty four sovereign and independent states have little to fear from without; for the combined powers of the world, while unanimity is preserved among us, could not probably wrest from us the blessings of liberty—let us then forget not the adage—“UNITED WE STAND; DIVIDED WE FALL.” If there be any thing which endangers the liberty of this country, or which retards the growth of genuine republican principles, and the prosperity of our free institutions, this danger is at home; it is within, among ourselves. I will not assert that our liberty is really in danger; but I will mention what in my opinion constitute a few of the elements of despotism, which elements may possibly one day, (God in mercy forbid!) jeopardize the liberties of this Republic.

Ignorance is the first I will name. Intelligence is the life of liberty—there is no slavery comparable to the slavery of the mind, “God’s highest work, his mirror and representative.” The mind of man seems designed by the Creator for endless progression in light and knowledge, and no tyrant is so tyrannical, no man so deservedly execrable in view of all benevolent beings in the Universe, as he whose object it is to rivet upon his fellow-man the chains of mental slavery; for this being effected, tame submission and inevitable misery succeed.

It is the power and activity of thought, which have sundered the strongest cords of despotism; it has, therefore, ever been the work of the enemies of mankind, to check the progress of thought. To the designing and aspiring of all ranks, it is well known that the omnipotence of thought, has caused thrones to totter, tyrants to tremble, and “kings to turn pale.”

The proper education of youth, will the more effectually promote the progress of thought, or the enlargement of the mind, and open the door to future improvement in the science of government, which even in *this* country, will yet admit of being improved.

To the youth of our land will soon be committed the high trust of defending our liberty, of directing the helm of government, and of improving upon the plans of their predecessors. Suffer one generation only to rise up in our land, uneducated, and uninitiated in the principles of our elective form of government ; I say let but one generation like this, become legislators, and the dispensers of laws to the American people, and awful, indeed, might be the consequences to our beloved country.

That person furnishes the strongest evidence of his attachment to freedom's cause, who shows himself the greatest friend to the education of youth. The founder of an institution for the instruction of youth, is ever worthy to be ranked among the greatest benefactors of the human race, and if the present age do not award to such, the merited meed of praise, future generations will rise up and call him blessed.

On this very spot, my friends, on your own dearly loved Island-home, by the munificence of a distinguished individual,\* only three years since, by the liberality of one man, how powerful the impulse which has been given to the subject of learning ! Already are its beneficial effects realized in this community—already do we hear persons middle-aged, and aged, almost daily regretting that the privileges for obtaining an education which now exist, had not existed in their youthful days. Who can estimate the advantages which will result to the people of this town, during the next twenty years, from the increased attention to public schools ? How much better will individual rights be understood, and regarded in this, and every other community, large or small, as learning and knowledge extend their purifying and elevating influence ! A comparison of the present with the past, will greatly assist in making the estimate. Nothing can more delight the consistent friend of liberty, than the augmentation of schools, academies, and colleges in this country—although many improvements have already been effected in the various modes and systems for the instruction of youth, others, doubtless, can yet be made. Neglect the education of youth, and Americans may be sure of an aristocracy in some form or other ; for it

\* Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin.

is only before the light of science, that ignorance, vice, and despotic power recede.

I have been thus particular and urgent to enforce the necessity of educating the youth of this country, so indispensable in the "representative system," for several reasons, besides the important one, that knowledge benefits the individual possessor.

Liberal and enlightened views in regard to all existing relations, are necessary to our safety—in a word, it is *knowledge*, which constitutes the surest antidote, against the intrigues of designing demagogues—against the spirit of party, merely for the sake of party. An alarming specimen of this spirit, was afforded in the late presidential contest; it was like an unfailing fountain, from which persons of every political creed drank too copiously, for either the dignity or happiness of the nation. Party spirit, purely so, is of a character too undignified, too prolific of evils, too reckless of consequences, to be indulged either with credit to the possessor or safety to the Union.

Knowledge is likewise equally a safeguard against danger from another quarter—a spirit exists in this country, not less unfriendly to the character of our republican institutions, than the efforts of party-politicians. I now allude to the influence of theological tyrants. It is possible we have less religious liberty in this country, than what some of us imagine. In what I am now about to state, I wholly disclaim being influenced by a spirit of sectarism; but standing here this day as a sentinel upon the watch-tower of liberty, prompted as I have been, and hope I may be, purely by love for my country—may heaven forbid that either fear, or hope of reward, should influence me to deviate from that straight line of duty, in which I believe my country's good requires me to walk.

The human mind never conceived a nobler thought, nor the heart of man a purer sentiment than the contents of that article embraced in our excellent constitution, which says that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This is an article, almost, if not entirely unique; yet there was never one fraught with greater wisdom.

Had such an article as this been adopted as a fundamental law among the nations of the eastern continent, centuries

ago, how many thousands, yea, millions of lives might have been saved, which, through disregard of such a principle as this article contains, have been sacrificed to the blind demon, bigotry. Theological tyrants are always studying to extend their influence by seeking alliance with the civil power, and debasing the human mind, in order to accomplish their ends. In these days, we hear of rallying "a Christian party in politics;" we also hear, in substance, that "no man is to be eligible to any civil office, who does not subscribe to the doctrines of the five prevailing sects."

What would liberty be, or the right of suffrage but a name to such as belonged not to the union, if five of the most popular, religious sects in this country should unite, and succeed in getting the reins of government into their own hands? Let the papal usurpations of Europe and South America furnish the answer.

Go back to the cruel and cowardly massacre of the Protestants of France, under Charles the Ninth, or to the English act of uniformity, which consigned 2000 of their best men to degradation, and some of them to poverty and death. "Richelieu Zimenes, Mazarin, were the firmest supporters of despotism. Loyola founded a sect, whose avowed purpose was, to govern all the thrones of Europe, and to degrade their subjects into slaves. What was the object? To promote the power of the sovereign, and the welfare of the state? No—to tyrannise over both. What has impeded the efforts of the Spanish nation to redeem their character and their rights? The clergy, an unprincipled and domineering clergy. What encouraged Don Miguel to overthrow the liberal constitution of Portugal? The clergy. What has been the bane of the South American States, since they have thrown off the Spanish yoke? An ambitious body of clergy." If hypocrisy, corruption and misery, have been the trophies, the memorials of a union of church and state in all ages and countries where such an unholy union has existed, we pray God in mercy to preserve this republic from the establishment of a national religion. Let that religious creed, which cannot stand, unaided by the civil arm, speedily fall to the ground. On this momentous subject, of guarding against the Upas of religious despotism, I would say to Americans, *Beware!* Such principles as those contained in Col. Johnson's Report (an instrument worthy to be preserved in company with the "Declaration of Inde-

pendence," in every hamlet and cottage in the Union, as long as liberty shall be dear to man,) that Report of last winter, on the subject of " Sabbath mails," cannot be too well understood, too highly valued, nor too strictly regarded.

We are told in that Report what we have just seen is a fact, that our Constitution has *wisely* withheld from our government the power of defining the Divine Law; and further, that "It is a right reserved to each citizen," (i. e. to judge for himself) "and while he respects the equal rights of others, he cannot be held amenable to any human tribunal for his conclusions"—also, that "extensive religious combinations to effect a political object are DANGEROUS" to the state. Let the history of those ill-fated nations, where national religion has been established, be continually before our eyes, serving as an awful memento, a beacon-light for the friends of liberty in this country, to avoid the rock on which they split. We do not infer from the fact that because misery has always attended a law-religion, christianity is unfriendly to civil liberty, by no means; but that an inordinate love of power has caused men in all ages, at times to throw off the restraints which "pure and undefiled religion" impose. Time will not permit me, as I had intended, to speak particularly of one other powerful, political machine, in this country, one which is operating to strengthen and extend the principles of liberty, or to foster the germes of tyranny. I mean the press. That this broad channel for the information of all ages, and ranks, has been in some cases grossly corrupted in this country, is I believe, undisputed and indisputable—to operate this potent engine against the cause of liberty, must necessarily portend the nation's degradation and misery. Does the proper liberty of the press allow the conductor of it to publish any thing which will violate either truth or justice? I think not. A press without bribery—religion existing without the aid of civil law—the diffusion of knowledge without regard to sex, or rank—deference paid to principle rather than to men, comprise the elements of American liberty and national glory. Principles, or measures, therefore, tending to corrupt the press—unite Church and State—perpetuate ignorance, or elevate to power men unworthy of public confidence, and destitute of integrity, are of course, subversive of the principles on which our free government is founded, and favorable to despotic misrule.

May it never, in truth, be said of this nation, “ O foolish people, and without understanding ; which have eyes, and see not ; which have ears, and hear not.” But I cease from boding ill to our country. A passing word to you,—daughters of America :—to you whose presence cheers in prosperity, whose tenderness, sincerity, and affection dry the tears of adversity. To behold on this day sacred as the birth-day of freedom, mingled in this crowded assembly, maternal gravity, youth, gaiety, and beauty, surrounding the altar of liberty, is matter of unfeigned joy. Prompted by patriotism, pure and noble as ever fired the human soul, it was yours, O woman ! to tender the tribute of gratitude in a song of triumph, to the immortal Father of American liberty.

At the ever memorable bridge of Trenton, which besides other splendid decorations sustained the “ triumphal arch,” (perhaps an emblem of which you can now behold,\*) it bore on its front the following gilded inscription :—“ The defender of the mothers will be the protector of the daughters”—it was the sincerity and fervour of gratitude in females, joined with the melody of their voices, welcoming the “ Mighty Chief,” which caused the heart of the heroic, the dauntless Washington, the intrepid warrior, who could face the cannon’s mouth, hear its roar, and see its terrific blaze, almost unmoved—it was the heart of such a man, on such an occasion, which was melted within him, and like Joseph overwhelmed with fraternal tenderness, as tradition affirms, “ *he turned and wept.*”

To you, gentlemen, who appear on this occasion, clad in the habiliments of war, I have but a word to say. It becomes you as men, as accountable beings with us, to cultivate a pacific disposition—“ as much as in you lieth, live peaceably with all men.” But should our country be invaded by some rapacious foe—to you we look for the security of our property and lives. It is no part of your duty, forming as you do, a portion of the soldiery of this Republic, to cringe at the feet of royalty, in order to protect some monster in human shape against the fury of his oppressed and insulted subjects. No ! It is to defend fathers, bosom-companions and prattling infants—to defend integri-

\*At one end of the Church were standing two stoves, by the union of their pipes was formed a perfect arch, and this arch was beautifully decorated with evergreens.

ty, virtue, innocence, which we ask of you ; and it is solely on the defensive which we expect you to act.

Should our country be endangered—should you be required to unsheathe the sword—to take up arms against the enemies of our liberty, I know not why the words attributed to Marco Bozzaris, the Epaminondas of Modern Greece, who died in the moment of victory, affirming that “ to die for liberty is a pleasure and not a pain,” might not be righteously employed. During an awful fight with the Turk—“ midst flame and smoke—and shout, and groan, and sabre stroke, with voice as of a trumpet, he exclaimed :

Strike—till the last armed foe expires,  
Strike—for your altars and your fires,  
Strike—for the green graves of your sires,  
God—and your native land !”

So dear is liberty to man, that even death has been preferred to servitude, which sentiment has been forcibly expressed by that “ orator of Nature,” Mr. Henry, who in the opinion of Mr. Jefferson “ gave the first impulse to the ball of the Revolution.” On a certain occasion he uttered the following sentence in notes of boldest, loftiest eloquence:—“ *Give me liberty, or give me death !*”

I have had no wish, on this occasion, to multiply advocates to any political creed, nor to make you Frenchmen in your feelings or politics ; no, nor yet Englishmen ; but true-hearted, genuine, patriotic Americans. The great Washington declared to our fathers that Independence and Liberty “ *are the work of joint councils, and joint efforts, of common dangers, sufferings and successes.* ” This is worthy to be had in everlasting remembrance, and should influence us to allow sectional interests to give place to *National* ; and suffer party names to be lost in the name of *American*. The people of this country form but one political family, and should be neighbors and friends. That inhuman traffic in human bones and sinews, *Slavery*, that foulest blot upon our nation’s character, we do hope and believe will one day be washed away—let not the friends of humanity cease their efforts in a cause so righteous as that of rooting out principles favoring the slave-trade—though centuries should be required to remove this stain, let us not be discouraged.

In this great nursery, wherein flourish, to a degree unrivalled in the world, agriculture, commerce and manufactures—science and letters, is a standing refutation of the

maxim that republics possess not sufficient virtue for the purposes of security and self-government. May it long continue a refutation of this maxim. Fifty-three years, this day, have rolled into the shoreless ocean of eternity, since America “took a stand among the nations of the earth ;” and to estimate what will be the effects of liberty during another half-century, baffles all conjecture. A healthful climate, a fertile soil, an immense territory, extending from the lakes of the north, to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the shores of the broad ocean, the blue waters of which surround us, to yonder still broader one, towards the going down of the evening star, are ours,—attached to the Eden of America. What wealth, numbers and influence, may she not yet possess !

May the principles of Free Government be yet better understood by our own countrymen, and the elements of rational liberty strike deeper, broader and firmer, that every American citizen may be as unbending in support of freedom, as the oak upon his native mountains !

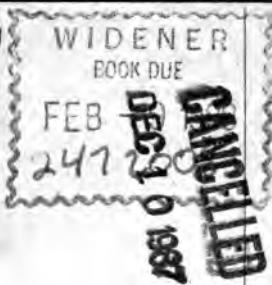
“ O long may the banner of Union unsurled,  
Triumphant wave on the ocean and shore ;  
May’st thou flourish, my country, the pride of the world,  
The home of the exile, till time is no more.”

May the spark of liberty which has been kindled in this western world, be yet wafted across the mighty deep, and there burn with an increasing and glorious light. “ Indeed the prospect is fair, that the political regeneration, which commenced in the West, is now going back to resuscitate the once happy and long deserted regions of the older world.” In Europe the friends of freedom are multiplying. The banner of liberty waving on these American shores, already the light and blessing of millions, we do hope may yet wave in the Ottoman Empire, throughout pagan Asia, and over the heads of Africa’s enslaved sons ; when the benevolent effects of science, reason and philosophy, the concomitants of liberty, shall extend over the face of the whole earth, blessing the abodes of man. May truth prevail, righteousness be established in the earth, and man redeemed from slavery, purified from sin, be admitted through the mercy of God Almighty, into that Glorious Temple of Liberty, where he may continue rising higher and higher in the scale of moral being, growing holier and happier through every successive age of Immortality.

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